

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: MICHAEL CLEARY - 1

TITLE: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO PARTICLE PRODUCTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ATT: BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, please insert:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, before the last paragraph, please insert:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4-9, 11-12 and 14 as follows:

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said code or other identifying marking is discernible by means of a contrast or colour, reflectance or light transmission.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a plastic material having a metal layer

thereon formed by vacuum deposition, and wherein said code is formed by evaporation of the metal layer by means of the laser device to define a pattern or discernible code on each micro particle.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a plastic material and said code is formed by burning holes in said substrate to define a pattern or discernible code on each micro particle.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said pattern or discernible code comprises a series of digits.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate sheet is affixed to the support by means of a suitable adhesive.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the support comprises a flat sheet of inert material.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the micro particles are removed from the support by the use of a suitable solvent.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, including the further step of suspending the micro particles in a suitable

medium to allow the micro particles to be painted or sprayed onto goods to be marked.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein, during steps (b) and (c), said support, and said substrate sheet affixed thereto, is mounted beneath one or more fixed laser devices such that the support is movable in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the one or more laser devices.

A marked up version of the amended claims is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicant has amended the specification to insert proper headings and has amended the claims to remove multiple dependencies. It is now believed that the application is in condition for substantive examination.

Respectfully submitted,
MICHAEL CLEARY



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ECR/ecr/jc
Enclosure: Exhibit A

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Date of Deposit: February 6, 2002

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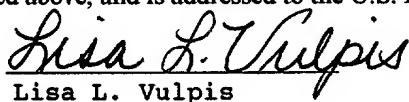

Lisa L. Vulpis

EXHIBIT A

**Marked-up Version of the Amended
Claims Showing the Changes Made**

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, wherein said code or other identifying marking is discernible by means of a contrast or colour, reflectance or light transmission.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a plastic material having a metal layer thereon[, preferably] formed by vacuum deposition, and wherein said code is formed by evaporation of the metal layer by means of the laser device to define a pattern or discernible code on each micro particle.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a plastic material and said code is formed by burning holes in said substrate to define a pattern or discernible code on each micro particle.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in [either] claim 5 [or claim 6], wherein said pattern or discernible code comprises a series of digits.

8. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the substrate sheet is affixed to the support by means of a suitable adhesive.

9. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the support comprises a flat sheet of inert material.

11. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the micro particles are removed from the support by the use of a suitable solvent.

12. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding] claim 1, including the further step of suspending the micro particles in a suitable medium to allow the micro particles to be painted or sprayed onto goods to be marked.

14. (Amended) A method according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein, during steps (b) and (c) [of claim 1], said support, and said substrate sheet affixed thereto, is mounted beneath one or more fixed laser devices such that the support is movable in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the one or more laser devices.

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